



NORTH CAROLINA The Mason



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Help coming for historic lodge property

By Ric Carter

HALIFAX — The North Carolina Masonic Foundation has stepped up to help protect one of North Carolina's most important Masonic landmarks. They have stepped in and created an LLC (Limited Liability Corporation) which will enable the lodge to accept tax deductible gifts to aid in restoring and protecting their building in the heart of Halifax's historic district.

One of our most historic lodge buildings is Royal White Hart 2's here in the middle of Halifax, one of our colonial capitals. The lodge got a dispensation in 1764 from the Grand Lodge of England. The town was the home of the Halifax Resolves signed by North Carolina's Fourth Provincial Congress, April 12, 1776, a predecessor to the Declaration of Independence. It became the first provincial congress to authorize her delegates to the Second Continental Congress to join in a resolution of independence. (That's why you see that date on the NC flag.)

Royal White Hart's best known patriot members were Joseph Montfort and William R. Davie. Montfort was a colonial treasurer and "provincial grand master of and for America." Davie served as Washington's quartermaster during the Revolution, was the father of the University of North Carolina, and our third grand master. The building is situated between and within sight of the homes of Montfort and Davie. Joseph Montfort is buried in the front yard.

In about 1820, Royal White Hart built their lodge building, a simple, frame two-story structure. They bought some new furnishings, but kept many artifacts from the time before they were real estate owners. Among their most striking is a floor cloth for candidate instruction which was a gift from Joseph Montfort. It still hangs, preserved, on the wall of the lodge. A unique master's chair is also older than the building. Built by local craftsman Richard Hall, see HALIFAX, page 4



Royal White Hart 2 is a beautiful, historic Masonic landmark for North Carolina. Clockwise from above: the lodge with Joseph Montfort's grave; the instructive floor cloth Montfort gave the lodge in 1772; and the master's chair built by Richard Hall in the 1760s.



Jeff Perry sits on his truck.

Masons pull for family fun

By Ric Carter

RALEIGH — I went to the North Carolina State Fair last October to talk to Hiram 98 member Earl Wells about his tractor pull team. I was surprised to find so many families in the pits. I was more surprised to find nearly enough Masons to open a lodge.

My first sighting of Wells that day was of him and chief team mechanic Allen Carr (Hiram 98) studying Carr's Fellow Craft catechism. They were sitting in lawn chairs beside the team hauler—a vehicle worthy of any NASCAR team. It was big enough to haul two tractors and an entire support shop. In its front end was a plush, custom built bedroom and bathroom for Wells and

his wife.

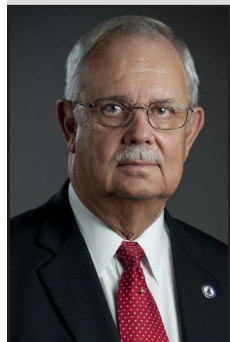
Earl got "suckered" into pulling by John Strickland (Hiram 98), his future son-in-law, when Strickland invited him to Harrells to see the annual fire department pull. John told him he could get into the Super Farm class tractor for "not a whole lot of money." Earl bought and started pulling. Earl could not escape his attachment to winning. "Not so much money" went out the window. His GALOT pulling team now includes an alcohol super stock tractor. The driving duties on the super stock have gone to his 17-year-old granddaughter Janalee Edge, who was

see PULL, page 5



Earl Wells and Allen Carr enjoy a coaching opportunity before the competition.

THE BOTTOM LINE



Our upcoming year

By Robert E. Gresham Jr.
Grand Master

Since my last writing for the "Bottom Line," I have continued making surprise visits. All have worked out with some smoother than others. The brothers seem to enjoy watching their officers get in a

sweat when I am announced.

I have completed nine out of my announced twenty six-district meetings. Attendance has been great, and the food has been very enjoyable. For kicks, I have been keeping a log of the various foods that I have been served. So far slaw has been served seven times, and green beans are close behind with five times. Barbecue leads the meats with four servings. At Traphill 483, there were around 115 Masons present. Eight actually sat in the preparation room. When I was escorted into the lodge room, I went in single file. The room was full to say the least. It has been great. I look forward to the next seventeen meetings and experiencing the warm fellowship that I have enjoyed.

As you know, we are in the middle of a hotly contested politi-

cal season. Masonry prohibits talking about or getting involved in politics or religion when in a Masonic environment. They are forbidden by *The Code* and Masonic tradition. I recently had my concern posted on the Grand Lodge Facebook page because I was seeing messages being dispensed in official lodge communications or publications or utilizing lodge mailing lists.

While Masonry encourages all Masons to take an active part in the election process, Freemasonry should never be drawn into partisan communications nor partisan communication into Freemasonry. All Masons are encouraged to be good, responsible citizens.

I continue to remind you of our charities. Please continue to support the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford and WhiteStone. Our children are the future of Masonry and of our country. We have an obligation to provide for our children who need assistance. The senior brothers and sisters who reside at WhiteStone also need our help. They are the ones who provided for us. They have worked hard in the quarries of life and now need our assistance. We have a duty to support both. This year the MHCO Homecoming Festival will be held on October 12-14. The Shriners have assured me that they will be out in large numbers. The

parade on Saturday promises to be bigger than last year. On Friday, Andrew Jackson 576 of Salisbury has agreed to cook two pots of their Brunswick Stew which will be available for sale Friday evening. There will be entertainment Friday evening, and a good time is assured for all. On Saturday, we will have the parade as well as the barbecue cook off and more entertainment. Please arrange to join us in Oxford for this exciting weekend.

WhiteStone is 99 years old and is actively planning for its 100th birthday in 2013. Forty-six independent living one- and two-bedrooms are nearing completion and will soon be available for move in. The residents and staff are excited about these additions to the campus.

The long awaited Funeral Manual has been sent to the printer and should be available in the near future. This manual is not to replace the existing funeral program, but to expand and clarify the various situations in which we find ourselves when providing for our deceased brothers last wishes. I encourage you to familiarize yourself with it.

During my district meetings, I have been encouraging those in attendance to start working on NPDs, those members who have

see BOTTOM LINE, page 2

Protect the ephemeral



Bell doing research at the Grand Lodge office.

By Jack Bell

Editor's note: Jack Bell impressed us on his numerous trips to the Grand Lodge office researching his beloved Bula 409. He single-handedly pursues collecting and protecting the history of his lodge. All lodges need someone like Jack. We've asked him to tell us about his practice of history.

Some time ago C. Gene Parks of Bula 409 completed a *History of Bula Lodge* dated March 9, 1987. This was, as far as I know, the first time it was done. While I was master in 2004, we had a water fountain leak and flood the storage area of our past masters' records. We lost many valuable records. Some were able to save through the good graces of two of our brothers who dried and chemically treated our minutes, pictures, and a few other books.

Just over two years ago, I bought my wife a camera that allows me to photograph records without a flash. With this, I have copied what records and pictures we have in the lodge. I then download them to my computer, place the years into separate folders, and label them. It takes a lot of time, but it is worth it.

I have also been to Wilson Library at UNC/Chapel Hill copying some records that have connections to our lodge. (*Editor: The Southern Historical Collection there houses and preserves many of the historical records of our lodges.*) I have made several trips to the Grand Lodge to look up things in the Proceedings of the Grand Lodge and other records of past years. The card files of records of deceased and living members of our lodge were very helpful. It takes time, but if we do not do it now, what will be still here in years to come? There is no better time than today

to preserve your history.

On August 4, 1890, Bula Lodge's building burned to the ground destroying every record they had. Only an expense book remained because the secretary had carried it home. Trying to reassemble these records about our first masters and such has taken us to the records of the Grand Lodge and other places.

I have spent many hours at our local library looking at microfilm for articles about our lodge burning, about the events and deaths of our lodge family, and for pictures of past masters. I have been able to get all but two, W. G. Adams and L. C. Carter. I have been to funeral homes checking their write-ups giving family members names. This helped to get a couple of pictures. Cemetery records and tombstones back up death dates and such. Census records offer other information.

Brothers, if you do not protect our history, who will?

I have a much greater respect now for our past brothers than I did before I started this journey. They had many hardships to overcome in building a lodge and membership. Back before electricity was strung throughout the county, the brothers here only met when the moon was full. This was so they could see to get home. Researching, you will find many funny things, and many sad things, and many fascinating things that took place in those years.

Is it worth the hard work and trips out of town? You bet your boots it is! I would do it all again. I have a long way to go, but at least we are trying. Whatever I capture and preserve is there for the lodge in the future.



Pollard named Montfort recipient

ALBEMARLE — Grand Master Robert E. Gresham wasted no time in presenting his first Montfort Medal. At the installation of Grand Lodge officers, he introduced Samuel Richard Pollard of Concord 58. Pollard served as a mentor to Gresham through his early Masonic career. He coached the grand master through his degree catechisms and put him in the officer line

in Albemarle 703. Pollard has served as district deputy grand lecturer. He is a past master of Albemarle 703 and served the lodge as secretary for five years. The Montfort goes to one "who in the opinion of the Grand Master is deserving thereof because of distinguished Masonic service or achievement." A grand master may present three during his tenure.

You're invited

Golf tournament

May 11

STATESVILLE — Statesville 27's Relay for Life Golf Tournament is set for Fox Den Country Club on May 11. Entry fees are \$200 per team or \$50 for individuals. Mulligans, strings, free range balls, and special awards are available. They are also looking for sponsors. Contact Wayne Craddock for details at (704) 880-9990.

Pancake breakfast

May 12

RAMSEUR — The Fourth Annual Pancake Breakfast of Marietta 444 will be serving at the lodge from 7:30 A.M. until 10:20 A.M., 735 Liberty Street., May 12. Tickets are five dollars. Proceeds will go to the Masonic Homes. For details contact <sr12-71@northstate.net>. — Ray Leonard

Pig Jig

May 18-19

The Seventh Carolina Masonic Pig Jig is coming up during Got To Be NC at the NC State Fairgrounds. Prepare your team now to vie for the prize.

For details visit <www.carolinapigjig.com> and <www.ncagfest.com> or call event coordinator Mike Sterling at (919) 272-1353 or <mjsterling@taxfreeinvesting.com> or 3356 Six Forks Road, Raleigh, NC 27609.

Imperial Shrine parade

July 4

This year, North Carolinian Al Madsen will be installed as imperial potentate of the Shrine of North America. The international convention will be held here in Charlotte. A place in the huge planned parade is being reserved for North Carolina Shrine-Masons. Their initial goal was a Shriner from each lodge in NC.

But, why limit the fun? If you'd like to participate, they'd love to have you there. Any and all NC Shriners have a place.

Wear a shirt with your lodge name and number, your fez, comfortable long pants, and comfortable shoes. To get the details and reserve your spot, contact Alan Hardy at <ahardy124@aol.com> or (704) 535-6815.

Keep politics out of the lodge

Brothers, a reminder during this political season from Grand Master Robert E. Gresham:

I have been distressed to see several political messages being dispensed in official lodge communications or publications or utilizing lodge mailing lists. PLEASE remember that this is STRICTLY forbidden by *The Code* and Masonic tradition.

While Masonry encourages all Masons to take an active part in the election process, Freemasonry should never be drawn into partisan communications nor partisan communication into Freemasonry.

A Discourse Among Masters

Once in ancient times, the master of a lodge called all his neighboring worshipful masters together for discourse on the highest truth. Once they had arrived, he stood and spoke: "Welcome, dear brothers! I have called you all here so that I might explain to you what it means to be brought to light."

Immediately all the brothers burst into laughter, and for the remainder of the time they sat around telling such jokes and poking fun at each other.

— <http://zenmasonry.wordpress.com/>

Your articles and NC Mason Deadlines

Got something you want to say? Have an announcement to make or invitation to get out? If your lodge never gets mentioned here, appoint yourself lodge reporter, and keep us posted on what you guys are doing. Got suggestions for features? Requests for information? We don't have the space for everything, but we'll make every effort to take care of those things with the broadest interest across the state. The dates below will give you an idea of when you need to get timely matters to us.

Issue	Deadline	Approximate Publication Date
January/February.....	January 1.....	February 1
March/April.....	March 1.....	April 1
May/June.....	May 1.....	June 1
July/August.....	July 1.....	August 1
September/October.....	September 1.....	October 1
November/December.....	November 1.....	December 1

Search for new administrator begins

OXFORD — The Board of Directors at the Masonic Home for Children in Oxford has announced the launch of a national search for a new administrator for the Home. Since Administrator Allen Hughes retired last year, Assistant Administrator Chris Richardson has served in the role on an interim basis.

In a Board statement, Chairman Dan Rice (PGM) said, "Chris has done an outstanding job since that time and, we are most grateful for his being willing to assume the role of interim administrator. He has asked that he not be considered for the job of permanent administrator so that he can resume his role as financial

development officer for the Home. He has done an exceptional job in that capacity and we are excited about eventually having him back in that job once we have secured a new administrator."

A recruiter has been enlisted to conduct the national search for "someone with many skill sets and multiple advanced degrees," someone who can "take a patch work quilt of ideas and dreams and turn them into a solid, lasting program to help children in need."

The NC Mason will keep you apprised of the search and any developments at the Home.

GM's district meetings continue

Grand Master Robert E. Gresham Jr. plans to visit about half our districts this year. His meetings start in early February and will finish at the end of May. His meetings will be similar to the area meetings of the past few years. Pre-meeting meals are scheduled for 6:15 P.M. with the tyled meeting starting at 7:00 P.M.. District officers and the grand master will be received with usual honors.

You may make your lodge's reservation for the meeting with your district deputy grand master or host lodge secretary. Please be considerate of the host lodge. Make your reservations for dinner at least seven days before your scheduled meeting. It is very frustrating to try to plan for a meal when reservations have not been made. Your lodge will be responsible to pay for all meals reserved. Those who have not made reservations should not expect to eat.

In case of inclement weather, meetings will be cancelled in accordance with local schools cancellations. If a meeting is cancelled, the host lodge and district deputy grand master will be notified. Your lodge may cancel its stated communication to attend your district meeting. Information will also be posted on the Grand Lodge web site: <www.grandlodge-nc.org>. This schedule was the schedule as of November 11, 2011. Changes may be necessary. Please consult your lodge for updates.

District	Date	Host
41.....	April 9.....	Blue Ridge 435
40.....	April 10.....	Dillsboro 459
37.....	April 11.....	Vesper 554
39.....	April 12.....	Nichols-W. Asheville 650
16.....	April 17.....	Selma 320
14.....	April 18.....	Raleigh 500
6.....	April 19.....	William Pitt 734
22.....	May 1.....	Jefferson Penn 384
21.....	May 2.....	Laurinburg 305
17.....	May 3.....	Stedman 730
1.....	May 14.....	Eureka 317
2.....	May 15.....	Manteo 521
8.....	May 16.....	Royal White Hart 2
4.....	May 21.....	Franklin 109
12.....	May 22.....	Shalotte 727
10.....	May 23.....	Pleasant Hill 304
29.....	May 30.....	Albemarle 703

BOTTOM LINE, from page 1

let their membership lapse by not paying their dues. Now is the time to make individual contact with those who have not paid their 2012 dues. Please make visits to these brothers, explain to them that we need them, we want their attendance and participation in our lodge. I believe that if we work with these brothers, most of them will be returned to active participation in the lodge. Those excluded in the last two years do not have to be re-balloted on, they pay what they owed at time of NPD, the current years dues and just come back in. Remember, in that unfortunate situation where a NPD former member is called "To that house not made with hands..." he cannot have a Masonic funeral.

Later this year the Grand Lodge of AF & AM of North Carolina will turn 225 years old. I have appointed a celebration committee to plan and coordinate the activities. They are hard at work and have scheduled the actual celebration for Saturday, November 3, 2012. Please make note of this date. More information will be forthcoming.

Again, thank you for giving me the privilege of serving as your grand master. It is the greatest honor that you could bestow on me. I will always cherish this opportunity.

In closing, something to ponder:

Persistence

Nothing in the world can take the place of persistence

Talent will not; nothing is more common than unsuccessful men with talent.

Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost a proverb.

Education will not; the world is full of educated derelicts.

Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent. The slogan "Press On" has solved, always will solve, the problems of the human race.

THE MISSION OF FREEMASONRY IN NORTH CAROLINA IS TO RAISE THE MORAL, SOCIAL, INTELLECTUAL, AND SPIRITUAL CONSCIENCE OF SOCIETY BY TEACHING THE ANCIENT AND ENDURING PHILOSOPHICAL TENETS OF BROTHERLY LOVE, RELIEF, AND TRUTH, WHICH ARE EXPRESSED OUTWARDLY THROUGH SERVICE TO GOD, FAMILY, COUNTRY, AND SELF UNDER THE FATHERHOOD OF GOD WITHIN THE BROTHERHOOD OF MAN.

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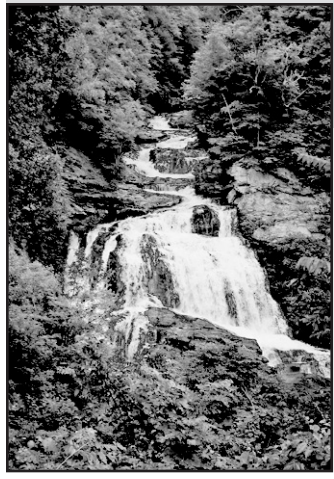
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TRAVELING THE TAR HEEL STATE

NEWS FROM NORTH CAROLINA'S LODGES

By Ric Carter



Gastonia

Members of Gastonia 369 and King Solomon 704 are teaming up to participate in Relay for Life of Gastonia April 27-28. Joe Waller is heading up the effort to build a team. They need a minimum of five members who will raise at least \$100 each.

Gastonia Lodge will hold their Boston butt sale during the Easter holiday. Proceeds will go to the North Carolina Masonic Foundation.

— Rick Clanton

Swansboro

Each year, Seaside 429 has a Christmas party. It is also the night they honor the lodge's widows. On December 9, they had Santa visit the party and deliver to each honoree a fruit basket.

— Trestle Board

Hookerton

Jerusalem 95 recently thanked members for contributing labor to the lodge. Kenneth "Dynamite" Tyndall and his "special friend" were saluted for electrical repairs to the lodge. They also tipped their hat to Charles Chapman for his carpet cleaning at the lodge.

Ray Dotson auctioned off a Masonic wrist watch at the lodge and gave the proceeds to the Masonic Home for Children.

— The Jerusalem Journal

Thomasville

Thomasville 214 found itself begging funds when they had to replace the roof of their lodge. They also held a Brunswick stew to help defray the \$20,000 bill for the new roof.

— Trestle Board

Pilot Mountain

Each year, Pilot 493 gives a \$500 scholarship to a college bound student from their community. If they perform well their first year, they may earn a second \$500 award.

— The Pilot Mountain Traveler

Kannapolis

Cannon Memorial 626 held their Annual Charity Breakfast February 11. For six dollars, you got country ham, sausage, bacon, eggs, grits, rice and gravy, biscuits, juice, and coffee. Sounds generous, but tough on the pig population.

— Jacob Merricks

As of February 24, Cannon Memorial was still sitting on the 28th Masonic District's traveling gavel that they picked up with a visit in December.

— Thomas Van Etten

Southern Pines

Jim McKee's brother-in-law Boots Belardinelli took up stained glass as a hobby in his 70s. The octogenarian is also an avid Freemason. He recently adapted *Babnson Manual* scenes of the Third Degree to ten handmade stained glass scenes. Mark Miller, Jim McKee, and Thom Dunning came up with a plan for building a display for the artwork. They are now seen backlit beside the secretary's desk in Southern Pines 484's lodge room.

The town of Southern Pines holds Springfest each year. The lodge is participating in the April 28 celebration. They'll be holding a fundraiser breakfast for vendors and others.

It's scholarship season for Southern Pines Lodge. They have usually awarded \$1,500 to the top merit and need student at Pincrest High School and Union Pines High School. Interviews are beginning already. On August 11, the lodge will again sponsor the Annual R. C. Yoder Memorial Scholarship Fund Golf Tournament. They'll play at Pinewild Country Club. For information, contact Mark Miller at (910) 692-0747 or <mmiller@hotmail.com>.

— The Trestle Board

Edenton

Unanimity 7 has been planning a special Entered Apprentice degree for April 14. They plan to host a degree team in colonial costume and hold the degree in their old lodge room on the second floor of the old Chowan County Courthouse. We'll bring you a report when it happens. The replica Washington Chair may even make an appearance.

— Paul Gregory and Carlton Jackson

New chapters launch with new DeMolays

WINSTON-SALEM — North Carolina DeMolay initiated 15 young men into the order during state degrees held here in January. The boys were from Winston-Salem Chapter (sponsored by Old Town 751), Foothills Chapter (sponsored by Cliffside 460), and Fayetteville Chapter (sponsored by the 17th Masonic District). Each of these chapters is new or reactivated. If your lodge is interested in supporting a new DeMolay chapter or is interested in reopening an old chapter, please contact Deputy Executive Officer Matthew Hunt at 336-736-9457 or hunt@ncdemolay.org. — Paul Jones



Charlotte

Charles M. Setzer 693 is raffling a week at a beach house in Oak Island. Richard and Rose Thompson donated the prize. Tickets are \$25.

Setzer Lodge is trying to reorganize their DeMolay Chapter.

Setzer Master Allan Mann was recently named an honorary member of Unique 85 PHA in Charlotte.

— Trestleboard

Temple 676 members went bowling together in February. The "brotherly entertainment with wives" was organized by Steve Ludwig's Social and Entertainment Committee.

Temple Lodge recently made donations to two causes. They donated \$2,000 to the Idiot's Golf Open benefitting Thomson Childrens Home and Barium Springs Home for Children. They also helped pay the tuition for a middle schooler to attend National Young Leaders State Conference.

— Trestle Board

Excelsior 261's officers held an officer's retreat in early December at the lake home of Phillip Brown. They planned out the coming year, dubbing it a "Year of Renewal."

— Trestle Board

Mint Hill 742 held their Annual Chili Cook Off February 2. As usual, everyone had a great time. Plaques were presented to the winners. In the Hot Division, Joe Killough took first and Tom Acklam second. For the Mild Division, Carol and Elizabeth Carriker won, with Johnnie McBride as runner-up.

Mint Hill Lodge's Spring Fish Fry was held March 17. They run the Fry from 11:00 A.M. until 7:00 in the evening.

To help their lodge secretary get his work done more efficiently, Mint Hill Lodge installed a laptop computer, a WiFi router, and WiFi scanner/printer/copier.

— Mint Hill Lodge

Don Hendershot was chosen Mason of the Year at Steele Creek 737.

— Trestleboard

Derita 715 has a new temporary home. They are meeting at Saint Andrew 702 at 4630 Tuckasee Road in Charlotte.

— Derita Lodge

Greensboro

Gate City 694 ran their first quarter Adopt-A-Street clean up March 10. — Gary Ballance

P. P. Turner 746 Master Dillard Moss is trying a cash reward to stimulate attendance in lodge this year. His \$20 for 20 Brothers program will have him donating \$20 to our charities each time 20 members attend one of their meetings.

— P. P. Turner Lodge

Shane McGee, of Corinthian 542, took on the project when the condition of the sign in front of the Greensboro Masonic Temple was in dire need of attention. He hand polished and lacquered the brass sign and replaced the square and compasses and lighting for the historic sign.

— Trestle Board

Marble

Want a good pancake breakfast? Visit Marble Springs 439 on April 21.

— Sonoma News

Statesville

Pancake Jamborees have long been sponsored by Statesville 27 and Mt. Moriah 690. They are held twice each year. This year's are set for April and October.

Statesville Lodge is a big Relay for Life supporter in their community. They hold a golf tournament for the Relay the week before the main event. They also participate during the Relay day at Iredell County Fairgrounds.

Who is the ugliest officer in Statesville Lodge? In most lodges, it's a matter of opinion and up for discussion. At Statesville 27, they actually have a determination. A piggy bank is placed at each officer's station. Votes are one cent each. The officer with the most votes is the ugliest. All votes are donated to the Masonic Home for Children when the decision is concluded.

Robert "Cotton" Morrison was honored with the Lon Schulenberg Award in December.

Iredell County Emergency Medical Services made a professional call to the lodge in October. In January, they were invited back to the lodge for a thank you and to talk to the members about local EMS. They also give tips on emergency medical decision making and treatment. Dawn Pharr and Jessica Jones taught about early stroke symptoms to speed treatment.

Mt. Moriah 690 Entered Apprentice Randy Chilton presented a program about local canine police efforts. He brought his partner, police dog Rambo, along for the program.

— The Joppa Informer

Salisbury

John Hudson is carrying on a long family tradition this year as Master of Andrew Jackson 576. Several members of his family have served as master of the lodge: his father Tommy Hudson, his uncle Jimmy Hudson, and his grandfathers Giles Hudson and Sovereign Purvis. Giles Hudson was also grand master of Masons in North Carolina.

Andrew Jackson Lodge held their famous Brunswick Stew Fundraiser February 23.

The lodge has volunteered this year at a local homeless shelter including cooking breakfast. Art Steinberg organized this community service project.

David Carmichael has been putting together Andrew Jackson Lodge's newsletter for many years. Current commitments have forced him to cut back. As a result, they are going to an electronic only version of Master's Journal.

— Master's Journal

The Rowan County Masonic Blood Drive was held January 6 at the Salisbury Masonic Temple.

— Johnny Hatley

Warsaw

The Cookies for Hugs Committee at Warsaw 677 delivered cookies to several widows and infirm brothers just before Christmas. The lodge also recently enjoyed their Ladies' and Awards Night.

A group from the lodge recently went to present Jerry Nelson his Veteran's Emblem for 50 years Masonic membership. While they were out, they also visited treasured friend Jimmy Stickland.

— Warsaw 677

Raleigh

Hiram 40 will again field a team in the Walk to Defeat ALS. They first walked last year to honor their friend and past master Ron Page, an ALS victim. Page passed away not long after that first walk.

— Tom Imler

James B. Green 735 Master Dustin Tarditi plans to focus on Masonic education during his year in the East. He sees it as one of the things that sets us apart from other organizations.

Green Lodge held a lodge cleanup day December 30. They raked pine straw, spruced up the grounds, and installed new peg racks in the preparation room. A donated shed is replacing the older one.

Their Annual Chili Cook-Off was set for February 14. Every year they have "a great time sampling, comparing notes, and rooting for their favorite." The five-dollar entry fee goes to the lodge.

— The James B. Green Scene

Concord

Greg Furr made a promise that is sure to please the members of Cabarrus 720. He told them his main goal for his year in the East is to have "speedy and effective meetings." That is certainly a plus for men who have families to get back to. Of course, informal gatherings after the meeting can go on as long as the brothers like.

Cabarrus Lodge gave Union 618, with whom they share a building, \$1,000 as their portion of the new audio visual system in the lodge building.

Cabarrus Lodge has made Billy Raymer and Phil Hudson life members. Hudson has been their treasurer for 30 years. Raymer has been a certified lecturer in the lodge for 20 years and served as DDGM and DDGL.

The lodge is holding a yard sale fundraiser this spring for the Masonic Homes.

— Newsletter

Laurinburg

Laurinburg 305 hosted some visitors in mid-February when they worked a Fellow Craft degree. Seven members of Mt. Scottish 188 PHA visited for the festivities. Laurinburg Master Jason Butler said, "It was a very pleasant time of fellowship, and we look forward to having them join us again."

— Jason Butler

Fayetteville

Mark Bergman is heading up Phoenix 8's new reference library (no lending). They have been getting in lots of materials from members and friends.

Other needs they are asking members with help on are: woodworking, electrical, and painting skills to help with some fix-it projects around the building; and printing equipment for the secretary's office; and a display cabinet to hold historical artifacts.

Phoenix Lodge signed on in January to support the new DeMolay Chapter in Fayetteville. Letters Temporary for Marquis de LaFayette Chapter of DeMolay were presented January 14.

— Trestleboard

Wilmington

St. John's 1 recently held a Winter Festival, raising \$1,000 for charity. They gave the money to the Yahweh Center, which provides housing and psychiatric care for children who have been removed from their families for their own protection.

Master Parker Stevens plans to "focus on fellowship and family" this year. They'll be having more events which will be open to friends and family. Stevens also wants to include more past masters in the lodge's degree work and raise money for new air conditioning units for the lodge.

Chuck Baer is resurrecting St. John's 1's dormant newsletter. Thanks, Chuck.

— Trestle Board

Winston-Salem

Old Town 751 is sponsoring the new Winston-Salem Chapter Order of DeMolay. Letters temporary were presented January 14. If you'd like to help, contact Alan Willard.

Old Town Lodge delivered fruit baskets to 31 lodge widows on December 17.

Old Town is holding practices on most Tuesday nights. It is an opportunity to learn more Masonic work.

— On the Level at Old Town Lodge

see STATE, page 4

If your lodge has a newsletter for its members, make sure *The North Carolina Mason* is on your mailing list. Lodge newsletters are a major source of news for Masons around the state. If you don't have one, think about starting one. Newsletters are a good way to keep your members active, happy, and informed.



Home develops emergency response

OXFORD — Beginning in the summer of 2010, the Masonic Home for Children began preparing the campus for a state and federally approved emergency multi-response system. It is similar to systems currently used in the North Carolina public schools. The Home has worked with FEMA, the State of North Carolina, and Granville County Emergency Management Services to create a multi-hazard emergency plan.

The Home has updated its policies and included a number of new safety features on the campus, including external emergency notification systems (horns), text and email messaging,

and the development of an incident command system for the campus staff and residents to use in emergency situations, including severe weather.

Director and EM Coordinator and Fire Marshal Doug Logan is seen here providing a table-top drill, giving a scenario on paper for the Home's Emergency Plan to react to, finding those things that work and problems that may need correction. Drills will accompany future table-top exercises on a regular basis with the entire campus and local law enforcement and emergency services. Testing of the plan and its components continues through 2012 culminating in a full-scale drill later in the year.



Masonic Pig Jig returns in May

RALEIGH — North Carolina's largest Masonic gathering, the Carolina Masonic Pig Jig, is set for May 19 at the North Carolina State Fairgrounds, next to the new Exposition Center. This year's event is again held in cooperation with the Got To Be NC Festival.

For details visit <www.carolinapigjig.com> and <www.ncagfest.com> or call event coordinator Mike Sterling at (919) 272-1353 or <mjsterling@taxfreeinvesting.com> or 3356 Six Forks Road, Raleigh, NC 27609.

HALIFAX, from page 1



Grand Historian Michael Brantley in the Royal White Hart lodge room.

the chair has the three steps to the master's seat built in. Its rungs are columns of the different orders of architecture. Various emblems of Masonry are inlaid on the chair's back.

The lodge still has silver candle sticks for three tapers from the 1760s. A Bow china bowl still exists — decorated with the name of the lodge, it is "the only known product of the Bow factory in London made specifically for the American market." Don't forget the now rare and valuable chairs the lodge bought to keep its members comfortable.

While Halifax was a bustling center of commerce in the 18th-century, industry, government, and trade moved west over the years. Halifax slowly became a sleepy, rural community. Its membership got older, and their numbers shrank. Shrinking income and tired members meant that maintenance slipped, and slowly the building deteriorated. In the last ten or 20 years people outside the lodge started showing an interest and encouraging the lodge to preserve its treasured home. Royal White Hart has long been a popular lodge visit night for other lodges in the northeast part of the state.

First, the lodge began getting some younger,

STATE, from page 3

Columbus

Horse Creek 719 continues to host a monthly breakfast at the Fireside Restaurant in Hendersonville. — *Horse Creek Lodge*

Mount Airy

Renfro 691 has changed its meetings to 7:00 P.M. on third Mondays.

Renfro Lodge has done lots of work to their archive room adding cabinets and display cases. John Kidwell of Granite 322 built the cases.

They've also launched a new newsletter replacing their long defunct one, *Lodge Times*. — *Lodge Times*

Carthage

Carthage 181 has started hosting a lodge breakfast on the last Saturday of every month (except November and December).

Carthage Lodge plans to host two fundraisers this year: a fish fry April 27 and chicken and dumpling dinner October 26. — *Quarterly Trestle Board*

Kinston

St. John's 4 is sponsoring a Corn Hole Tournament May 5 for benefit of the Masonic charities. The tossing will be done at Pearson Park, and entry fees are \$40 per team. Cash prizes will be offered in the double elimination tournament. — Lynn Hill

Kernersville

It's never good news for the lodge treasury, but Kernersville 699 is facing the inevitable air conditioning replacement. Donations to help are being accepted.

Any Monday night when they are not doing degree work, Kernersville Lodge is holding what they call Mason's University. It's an informal session during which members may learn new bits of ritual or practice catechisms. — *Masonic Lodge News*

Stedman

Henry L. Tew was named Stedman 730's Mason of the Year for 2011.

On November 21, Judge C. Faircloth Jr. was presented his Veteran's Emblem marking 50 years Masonic membership. Then-Grand Master Lewis Ledford presented the award.

Stedman Lodge collected money and canned goods for an indigent family during the Christmas season. — *The Blueprint*

Conover

Thirty-two widows of Conover 709 had poinsettias delivered for the holidays. Members of the lodge bought and delivered the Christmas flowers.

Conover Lodge participated in the January 6 blood drive held at the local fire department. — *Newsletter*

Wake Forest

Wake Forest 282 held a Flapjack Fundraiser in cooperation with Applebee's on March 10. — David Oates

China Grove

Eureka 283 hosted the open officer installation for Knights of Solomon 764 in January. Knights of Solomon is an affinity lodge for motorcycle enthusiasts. — Johnny Hatley

Oak Island

They've instituted a monthly breakfast at Oak Island 758. They'll be holding it at the lodge on the Saturday before each stated communication. They're serving at 8:00 A.M. — Bobby Carmon

Jacksonville

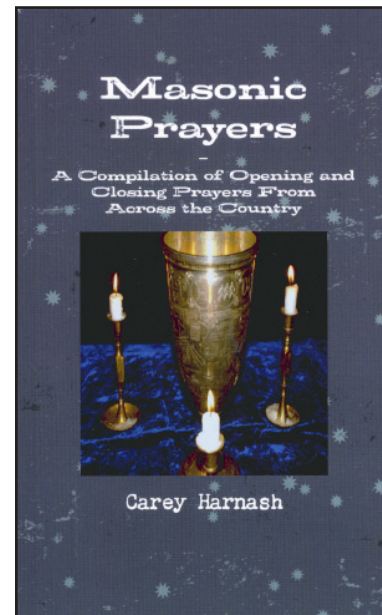
Semper Fidelis 680 was having so much fun with their Ladies' Night Out program that they've started having it monthly. As a group, they carry their wives out to a restaurant. — *Trestle Board*

A Masonic prayer buffet

ASHEVILLE — Carey Harnash, of Mount Hermon 118, has spent almost two years collecting Masonic lodge opening and closing prayers from all 50 states. His recently published *Masonic Prayers* puts more than 100 to those ritual prayers into one volume.

Some are similar to the prayers in our own *Babnson Manual*, which suggests, but does not limit the opening and closing prayers in our ritual work. The ones in this book make a simple, very interesting Masonic education for your lodge. Use these prayers instead the usual ones and let your brothers experience Masonry in other places. At the same time, they offer a nice (and acceptable) change of pace in the opening and closing of your lodge.

The little book sells for \$20 plus shipping and handling. Of that, two dollars goes to the Masonic Home for Children and one dollar to the repair fund at the Asheville Masonic Temple. You can order copies by email from Harnash at <charn@bellsouth.net>.



SIMONS, from page 8

ed about the fracking shale gas mining/drilling. As we moved to a work table with facsimiles of old documents on it, Simons laughed and noted that one was a 19th century depiction of the very vein of coal that was so prominently featured in today's news. His department was not surprised by the rising interest in shale gas. They had already been researching the topic. Simons has traveled the country reviewing the experiences of several states who have had the gas mining. It's a knowledge that may make the difference in the safety of our access to the resource.

Two other state geologist are thought to have been Masons. Joseph Austin Holmes served in the office 1891-1905. He was known as a champion of miners as he made many discoveries concerning the dangers of mining and crusaded to make the work safer. He appears to have joined Bingham 272 in Mebane in 1908, before leaving the state to become chief of the United States Bureau of Mines.

Jasper Leonidus Stuckey, state geologist 1925-1926 was a member of William G. Hill 218 in Raleigh in 1927, listing himself on his petition as a "teacher and geologist."

Jim Simons joined Millbrook 97 in 1989. He's a member there still.



Simons examines an early map of NC coal field holding gas deposits.

more energetic members. Plural membership let people join the lodge for love of its history. A consolidation brought them a larger pool of members. Experts from State Archives and History and historical architects helped by offering free advice and restoration plans.

Increased positive thinking meant everyone getting moving toward a "we can do this" attitude. Work began.

A new, high end metal roof is in place. The lodge room restoration is largely complete thanks to the personal talents and work of lodge Master Joseph Peter Jensen. They are pursuing a professionally designed, step-by-step plan to make Royal White Hart of real showplace for our Masonic history in North Carolina. Hope and progress are at their highest point in years. Similar trends seem to be happening around the state as more and more young men realize the joys of the historic landmarks they inhabit and have had passed down to them by their forefathers.

The new LLC partnership with the NC Masonic Foundation will mean they can qualify for more grants to be used to preserve the facility. With luck, it will bring new excitement, and new funding, and speedier repairs.



Master Joseph Peter Jensen has done much of the restoration work.

Green Level

Green Level 277 held a Sunday blood drive January 29. — Ludwik Wodka

Kenly

Past Masters' and Ladies' Night at Kenly 257 was set for March 6. Brothers Ray and Dennis Wheeler were to receive their Veteran's Emblems for 50 years Masonic membership. You may remember Ray from a recent article in *The NC Mason* about the Hushpuppy Man. — David Ellis

Advance

Service awards were presented at Advance 710 in November. Past Grand Master Lester Martin presented 60-year Diamond Jubilees for Charles T. Robertson and William Ellis. Norman Larry Carlton got his Veteran's Emblem for his 50 years membership. — Ron Vogler

Smithfield

Fellowship 84 continues to work on their capital campaign. They want to replace the concrete pad at their entryway. They also want to get a new grill and build a room to store it. It's also time for new aprons and gloves. — *Trestleboard*

Ramseur

Marietta 444 is having their Fourth Annual Pancake Breakfast on May 12. They're raising funds for the Masonic Homes. — Ray Leonard

Rose Hill

Rehobeth 279 recently elected Senior Grand Warden Dalton Mayo an honorary member. — *Rehobeth Lodge*

Spencer

Spencer 543 reports that 31 units were brought in during the Rowan County Masonic Blood Drive. That was three over their goal. — Johnny Hatley

Gibsonville

Tabasco 271 is planning their first barbecue cooking of the year for March 30-31.

On April 28, they are holding their first golf tournament at Brookwood Golf Course.

The lodge is also having an open breakfast at 8:00 A.M. on the first Monday of every month at the Grill Worx in Graham. — *Trestle Board*

Paw Creek

West Gate 738 had their Ladies' Night and Awards Dinner February 18 at the Metroliner Shrine Club. They enjoyed rib eye steaks and bluegrass music. — Gary Cooke

Asheville

Nichols-West Asheville 650 had a presentation about the Masonic presidents February 20. — Ron Lambe

The Asheville Masonic Temple is dedicating second Saturdays each month to Clean-Up Day. Different sections of the building get attention on their own Saturday: library in January, dining room in February, and the kitchen in March. — *Mount Hermon Lodge*

Benson

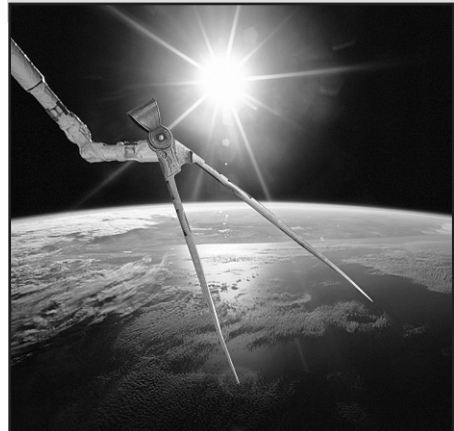
The 16th Masonic District holds regular joint meetings of their lodge officers. At their April meeting here at Relief 431, they were to work on refining their district funeral committee procedures. Each lodge is to bring one topic of general interest for discussion. — David Ellis

Princeton

St. Patrick's 617 was holding their Past Masters' and Ladies' Night February 24.

They were holding their annual barbecue fundraiser March 3. Barbecued pork and chicken were on the menu. — David Ellis

ENCOMPASSING THE WORLD



Kentucky recognizes Prince Hall

MASONIC HOME, KENTUCKY — At its most recent Communication, the Grand Lodge of Kentucky became the 42nd of 51 predominantly white United States jurisdictions to recognize Prince Hall Masonry.

Their resolution reads: "That the Grand Lodge of Kentucky, F & AM confirms the sovereignty of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Kentucky, F & AM as a regular Masonic body in Kentucky, and

welcomes an amicable relationship between the two grand lodges." The resolution does not authorize inter-visitation or dual membership.

In the 20 years since recognition started, only these jurisdictions have yet to acknowledge the regularity of Prince Hall Masonry: West Virginia, Tennessee, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, and Louisiana. — *Fraternal Review*, Southern California Research Lodge

Notes

INDIA — The Grand Lodge of India is "bringing light" to remote parts of their country as part of their Golden Jubilee. They are taking the practical approach to the term by installing solar panels in remote villages not connected to the electric grid. They are giving some locales their first look at electric lighting in their schools and homes.

— *Freemasonry Tasmania*

WEST BEND, WISCONSIN — West Bend 138 does a full production of "A Christmas Carol" each year at their Masonic Center. They reported that receipts doubled this year in the fundraiser. It is also a time when community interest centers on the lodge.

— *Wisconsin Masonic Journal*

RI allows 18-year-olds

EAST PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND — At its November Semi-Annual Communication, the Grand Lodge of Rhode Island voted to lower the age requirement for petitioning for the degrees to 18. According to figures from Masonic Messenger, that makes 36 jurisdictions allowing petitions from 18-year-olds, five requiring 19 years of age, and 10 still requiring 21 years.

— *Rhode Island Freemason* and *Fraternal Review*

Symposium on Civil War and Masonry

JOHNSON'S ISLAND, OHIO — Science 50 will host the Second Annual Symposium on Freemasonry and the Civil War. The event will take place on May 19, 2012 on Johnson's Island, the site of a Civil War POW camp for Confederate officers. For more information, contact Chad Simpson at CivilWar@freemason.com. — *Beacon*

Help get Masonic motorcycle tags

KING — Brothers in King are sponsoring a campaign to get North Carolina Masonic Motorcycle license plates made. These plates will be similar to those currently available for automobiles and trucks. They need a minimum of 300 tag orders before the NC Department of Transportation will issue these tags. Once issued, these plates will then be available through the normal license purchase/renewal process at the NC DOT.

In addition to the normal motorcycle registration fee (\$18), these plates with the Square and Compass add \$10 each year for regular plates and \$40 extra for personalized plates. An application providing instructions for requesting the tags is available at http://www.king722.org/index_files/motorcycltag.pdf. The first year's fee of \$28 (\$58 personalized) is required with the application. Should efforts come up short, fees will be promptly refunded.

For further information, contact Larry Bridges at Motorcycle Tags, c/o King Lodge No. 722 AF & AM, PO Box 1471, King, NC 27021 or wlbridges@gmail.com.

Palestinian becomes Israeli grand master

TEL AVIV — A Greek Orthodox Palestinian Arab, Nadim Mansour has been installed as grand master of the Grand Lodge of the State of Israel, a position he will hold until 2013. Israel has had two previous Palestinian Arab grand masters — Yakob Nazee (1933-1940) and Jamil Shalhoub (1981-1982).

Nadim Mansour, who was born in Haifa but moved to Acre when he was five, was initiated

(as a Lewis) into Lodge Akko in 1971, of which his father Elias was a founder. In 1980, he became its master.

Currently, the grand lodge has about 1,200 members in 56 lodges, working in ten languages: Hebrew, Arabic, English, French, Hungarian, Rumanian, Turkish, Russian, German and Spanish, and five different religions.

— *Freemasonry Today*

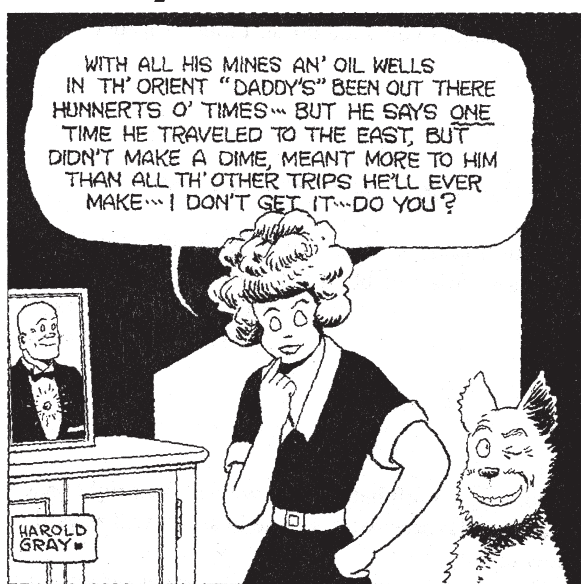
Shrine/GL problems in two states

In the last few months, the grand lodges of Michigan and Alabama have had fallings out with their state Shriners. While each involved different cases, both were for the same reason. The grand lodge in question expelled a Shrine potentate from Freemasonry for un-Masonic conduct. The Shrine, which requires that its

members maintain their Masonic membership in order to be a Shriner, refused to remove the expelled member from their rolls.

In response, the Grand Lodge of Michigan and the Grand Lodge of Alabama revoked their recognition of Shrine in their jurisdictions. The solution to these standoffs is unclear.

Daddy Warbucks was a Mason



Daddy Warbucks of Little Orphan Annie fame was a Mason. The long-running newspaper comic strip Annie ran for 85 years, ending with its last cliffhanger installment on Sunday, June 13, 2010.

Brother Harold Lincoln Gray (1894-1968) created the strip originally as Little Orphan Annie on August 5, 1924, in the New York Daily News and later in the Chicago Tribune. According to the Grand Lodge of British Columbia and Yukon website, at its height it was syndicated in some 250 newspapers.

While few today would ever think the strip was controversial, at various times, Annie got herself involved with gangsters, vigilantes, pirates, evil labor union social-

Membership figures for 2010

SILVER SPRINGS, MARYLAND — The Masonic Service Association recently released Masonic membership figures for its member institutions. It does not include Prince Hall Grand Lodges. The total membership of those 51 United States lodges at the end of 2010 was 1,373,453, the lowest figure since they began tracking in 1924. The rate of decline seems to be slowing. Seven grand lodges showed increases in membership.

North Carolina, tenth largest grand lodge at 45,096 members, showed a loss of 589 members during the same period. Actuarial analysis of our rolls a few years ago predicted that membership in North Carolina would fall off until reaching about 40,000. At that point it is predicted to remain steady. — Masonic Service Association

Truman grandson made Mason

JOLIET, ILLINOIS — On December 3, more than 150 Masons gathered at Oriental 33 to see Clifton Truman Daniel made a Mason. Emergent communications of both the Grand Lodge of Illinois and the Grand Lodge of Missouri were opened for President Harry S. Truman's grandson to be made a Mason at sight. It is a ceremony in which a man becomes a Mason by order of a grand master, without the usual ritual accoutrements of the craft.

President Truman was an avid Mason, in fact serving as Missouri grand master.

— *Illinois Freemasonry*

ists, and even a plot involving the bombing of a German U-boat.

As the frame illustrates, Oliver "Daddy" Warbucks was clearly a Freemason, so naturally he would care for an orphan. According to his Wikipedia biography, Oliver Warbucks studied engineering for a few semesters in college, became a successful industrialist, and amassed a fortune of "ten zillion dollars." In recognition of his service during WWII he was promoted to Lieutenant General.

Brother Gray continued to write and draw the comic strip up until his death in 1968. He was a charter member of Lombard 1068 in Lombard, Illinois.

— From the *Scottish Rite Journal*, July-August 2010

Son makes way for dad

CHARLOTTE — We often hear of fathers raising their sons in lodge. But, this tale from Temple 676 turns the tables and raises the ante. Tim Counts III was the first in his family to become a Freemason. While Tim III was an officer in Temple Lodge, his dad, Tim Jr., decided he would like to be part of the organization.

III got to sit in the East for all three of his father's degrees. Not long after, Tim III was elected master. On December 20, after finishing his second year in the Master's chair, Tim Counts III passed the lodge charter on to his successor as master, Tim Counts Jr., his father.



PULL, from page 1

just named Rookie of the Year by United Pullers of the Carolinas (UPOC).

Wells has never sat on either tractor when it was running, so what's in it for him?

Wells laughs and says, "Winning." He adds, "It's pretty much a family sport. Your family can go and have fun. You can make friends from all over the country." All over the country indeed. The Wells family attends 14 events each year, traveling 15,000-20,000 miles each year.

Jeff "Shrimp" Perry is the master of Perquimans 106. He started "brush pulling" in the mid-1990s as crew chief for a friend.

"It was no cost, dirty fun," Perry smiles. "All my expenses were covered, and I got to have a good time and enjoy the excitement."

An acquaintance offer to sell him a truck in 1999. After convincing his wife Nancy that he was neither "drunk" nor had he "lost his mind," she consented and they began their hobby. Nancy often joined Perry on the 14 or so weekend pulls across North and South Carolina, Eastern Tennessee, and Virginia. Before long, she actually tried driving a few times. Next she was scheduling her vacation time to fit the pull schedule. She now drives at least one night at each event. Two years ago, she was UPOC's Rookie of the Year.

Perry says, "I met Earl when he brought a dozen or so kids from the Masonic Home for Children to a pull and sat them in his section. We started talking more about Masonry then. I've enjoyed the time I've had the last couple of years to get to know my Brothers here. I've really enjoyed time with Earl. Sometimes, we'll get in the golf cart and ride and just talk."

"I started brush pulling. These days, it's a fourteen weekend vacation for Nancy and me. Pulling is an extended family — a lot like Masonry in some ways."

Daryl Cash, a member of Wake Forest 252,

is currently president of United Pullers of the Carolinas. He drives a jet tractor.

Daryl says, "I have always loved truck and tractor pulling. I have been involved with UPOC for 10 years. Truck and tractor pulling is a family thing for my wife and me. She goes with me to all or most of the pulls and so does my mother. We have a great time getting to know our fans and hanging out with our friends on the circuit."

Want to enjoy a pull? The First Masonic District sponsors one in Elizabeth City each year to raise money for charities. That event is coming up June 1-2. There will be multi-engine modified tractors, superfarm tractors, superstock tractors, modified two-wheel drive trucks, 650 cid four-wheel drive trucks, 2,050-pound modified mini-tractors, 4,000-pound light four-wheel drive trucks, and street diesel trucks.

To find the track, go 12 miles north of Elizabeth City to US 17 to Highway 158 west. The track is 1.5 miles on the left at Morgans Corner. You can get details by emailing Jeff Perry at shrimp@centurylink.net.

As they say: "Come hear the power and feel the noise! I will sell you the whole seat, but you'll only need the edge."

I'll add: bring your ear plugs, and don't be shocked if you see a Masonic sign or two.



Clockwise from above: Strickland makes a run with GALOT tractor; Cash with his jet ride; Nancy and Jeff Perry watching the competition; Wells and granddaughter Janalee; Wells, Carr, and Cash discussing red letter work.



Ric Carter photos



Holly Springs Lodge in Christmas parade

HOLLY SPRINGS — It was a great turnout for the Holly Springs Christmas Parade. About 90 entrants participated and included the full spectrum of organizations. There were dancers, horses, bands, antique cars, nonprofit groups, churches, and yes even the Masons. The town's historic Holly Springs 115, founded in 1847, participated along with brothers from the Maryland Kensington-Bethesda Lodge 198.

—Vinnie DeBenedetto



Gray named charitable "godfather"

DEEP RUN — On October 13, Pleasant Hill 304 presented a special plaque to William A. "Bill" Gray, right, proclaiming him the Godfather of the Charities. Gray has headed up countless benefits and raised untold amounts of money in his lifetime for the local fire department, sick and destitute individuals, community causes, as well as our Masonic Charities. Pleasant Hill 304 has two fundraisers annually, and Gray always heads them up.

Tenth Masonic District Deputy Grand Master Rick Stroud says, "Brother Gray is one of those people who truly gives all he can to others. He never hesitates to answer the call when someone else is in need. He represents what all Masons should seek to attain — the ability to serve his fellow man."

Gray is seen here receiving the award from Pleasant Hill Lodge Chaplain E. D. Robinson. — Rick Stroud

Communicate for our Homes

By Chris Richardson

Brethren, I hope over the next couple of issues of The North Carolina Mason to share some points of emphasis to encourage thought and support for our Masonic Home and our children. In this installment, I mention communication and its importance to our charities. This includes resources provided by the Home for our lodges and others. Communication also includes what you talk about and communicate regarding our charities. It should not be confined to the four walls of your lodge. Share it with those in your town, your church, your workplace, and your family, and friends.

How can you do this today? Consider some suggestions:

- Visit our new website, including our Facebook and Twitter pages, and share it with others.
• Share our newsletter or annual report.
• Make copies for new Masons or for lodge family events. We mail it to your lodge secretary.
• Schedule a visit to the Home, or ask a member of our staff or alumni to speak at your lodge.
• Ask for a copy of our virtual tour CD to use as Masonic education or to share with a community organization.
• Phone us free, (888) 505-4357, for questions about admissions, donations, tours, our Masonic Homecoming Festival — for any reason.

During recent times, there has been a reduction

in the children we serve. That makes it even more important that communication must start with enthusiasm in your lodge and then extend beyond into your communities. More than once I have heard from a Mason's wife, a co-worker, a church member, or friend simply asking about the Home and what it does, who it helps, or how it helps. It is what we, you and I, say and do in our communities that will help families and children in the future.

In the last 12 months, I have seen an increase in members of our fraternity calling regarding the placement of a child or asking what ways they can help. They knew neighbors, co-workers, family members, and others in their community who worked with children or knew of a child or family who needed help. They remembered the Home and simply said — "I know a Home that can help."

Knowing our Home and sharing what it is, what it can do, what it has done for children who are now adults is so important to communicate today, right now, to people you know in your community.

Blood drive wrap

STATESVILLE — The 23rd Annual Masonic Blood Drive brought in more than 400 units in January according to organizer Raymond Burnette. The event is held in early January each year in what is a low blood supply period.

Total units by collection site are:

Table with 2 columns: Location and Units. Statesville: 193, Hickory: 58, Conover: 36, Taylorsville: 71, Mooresville: 61.

Let me help Masonry's charities

- The North Carolina Masonic Foundation
• WhiteStone, a Masonic & Eastern Star Community (MESH)
• The Masonic Home for Children
• Send information about wills and bequests.
• Please have someone contact me.

My name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ My lodge _____

In memory of (optional) _____

Address _____

To assure that your gift is properly credited to the fund of your choice, please make the check payable to that charity.

Mail to The Grand Lodge of North Carolina, PO Box 6506, Raleigh, NC 27628.

WELCOME OUR NEW BROTHERS

- 1.....Brandt, James Fredric
1.....Feinberg, Ryan Mitchell
1.....Grace, David Francis
1.....Jhrig, Matthew Robert
1.....Payne, Daniel Franklin
1.....Rich, Michael Lawrence
1.....Tyler, James Gregory
1.....Whichello, Brian Lee
1.....Whitwam, Michael Edward
4.....Whittington, William Clayton
8.....Feldschneider, Tommy Lee
8.....Milson, Charles Gavin
8.....Rivas, Jose Miguel
8.....Rogers, Jeffery Scott
17.....Francis, Christopher Leon
31.....Blalock, William Thomas
31.....Narciso, Joseph Ralph
32.....McGee, Vance Cornelius
40.....Boggs, Bradley Daniel
40.....Knowles Jr., William Conrad
45.....Walters, Kenneth Scott
53.....Cartwright, Daniel Clay
83.....Brennan, Peter
98.....Cannady, Christopher Mark
98.....Carr, Sherrill Allen
98.....Penman, Logan
99.....Hannold, Gregory Mark
106.....Shaffer, David
109.....Larka, Erik Raymond
109.....Vaughan, Frederick Michael
112.....Campbell, Bruce Keith
114.....Johnson, Richard D.
117.....Brantley, William Tyler
117.....Niez, Gilbert Babanto
118.....Cort, Taylor Gregory
127.....DeBerry, Danny Benjamin
127.....Hutchinson, Steven Kreg
134.....Steele Jr., William Leslie
137.....Jenkins, Dale Patrick
137.....Laws, Darrell Burgin
137.....Leonard, Lonnie Michael
137.....Runyon, Frank L.
138.....Gurganus, Joshua Eli
145.....Farmer, Brian Lee
145.....Holt, Carl Wilbur
145.....Ledford, Brandon Scott
146.....Helton, Matthew Scott
158.....Holland, Timothy Dillon
158.....King, Samuel Speight
170.....Cole, Zachary David
170.....Lewis, David Strider
172.....Pickard, Sandy Lee
176.....Clinard, David Andrew
176.....Headd Jr., Kevin O'Brien
176.....McIntosh, Patrick Scott
176.....Owen, Jeffery Eric
176.....Stillwell, Christopher Shane
198.....Strickland II, Glenn Richards
202.....Jones, John Russell
202.....Roberts, David Lee
214.....Darr, Arthur Dale
218.....Brock III, Clifton Henry
229.....Ramsey, Donald Maryland
230.....Hicks, Bennie Madison
244.....Purser, Eddie Lynn
258.....Ames, Christopher Michael
259.....Bradley, David Lynn
259.....Cooper, Anthony Owen
259.....Roberts, David Nathaniel
261.....Brent, Phillip Maurice
261.....Memene, Abdel Manaf
261.....Smith, James Michael
262.....Triplett, Robert Israel
263.....Biddy, Jeremiah Ryan
263.....Black, Michael B.
263.....McCourry, Scott Travis
265.....Cohen, Juan Wallace
267.....Anders III, L C
267.....Whitmire, Nathan William
272.....Brooks, Brandon Kyle
272.....Buckner, Paul Kyle
272.....Cook, Jason Christopher
272.....Koczak, Alexander Stephen
276.....Marshall, John Wesley
284.....Parks, Eric Blaine
284.....Powell, John David
284.....Waters, Bryant Leonard
284.....Wheeler, Thomas Wayne
289.....Chandler, Brian Marshall
289.....Wagner Jr., Marlin Eugene
301.....Roper, Kevin Dwight
317.....Perry, Donald Bradley
317.....Riggs, Dustin Tyler
319.....Baker, Wayne Edward
319.....Bridgers, Carl Jason
319.....Ellison, Kenneth Michael
319.....Hoff, Michael Martin
319.....Pigford, Horace Vernon
319.....Riggs, Alton Ivey
319.....Watkins, Richard Plaski
322.....Rinehart, Gregory Bernard
339.....Cooper, Newell Douglas
339.....Queen, Charles Thomas
340.....Mozingo, Jamie Len
363.....Teague, Joshua James
374.....Foust, Richard Andrew
374.....Murdock, William Jayson
375.....Davis, Jack Harold
375.....Eherton, William Zachary
377.....Soto, Christopher Celestino
380.....Baker, Dustin Thomas
381.....Edwards, Timmy Daniel
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473.....Freeman, Billy Steve
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496.....Jonnes, Norman Lee
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Preview of WhiteStone's district meeting report

By Mark Kolada

The annual Masonic district meeting tour is once again in full swing. As executive director of WhiteStone: A Masonic and Eastern Star Community, I truly enjoy the opportunity to inform the brethren of what is going on at their retirement community in Greensboro, and more importantly, discuss our beloved charity. If you get the chance to attend your local district meeting you won't be disappointed, however, for those of you who may not get a chance to participate, below is a summary of my district meeting report:

I am pleased to inform you that WhiteStone is about to turn 99 years old. For almost a century we have prided ourselves as Masons for running a retirement community that is known for three things: 1) excellence in nursing care, 2) providing quality retirement living, 3) our generous and benevolent charity.

Here's a quick update on how we are doing on all three.

One, ongoing operations at the community continue to stabilize and perform very well. We currently serve approximately 250 residents. Our independent living area currently is about 95% occupied, and our nursing center above 97%. For the second straight year, our nursing center has

received a five-star rating from the Center of Medicare/Medicaid services, based on quality of care measures, staffing, and survey results. As a result of the designation and our stellar reputation within the Triad area, it ranks the Care and Wellness center in the top 15% of all nursing homes in the nation.

Two, we have been in the midst of renovating and expanding several areas of our campus over the past few years. Last year, we completed work on renovating our administration building into a beautiful clubhouse for our residents including new game room, library, activity area, and resident store. The project has already won two national design awards, from *Long Term Living Magazine* for renovation design, and a silver award at the National Association of Home Builders convention in the category of repositioning.

Because of this ongoing commitment to improving our community, we continue to have high levels of resident satisfaction, as they enjoy getting the most out of their golden years. In the next few months we will finish expanding our services and amenities even further by adding 46 independent living one- and two-bedroom units (which are about 80% presold), adding a fellowship hall, beauty salon, bistro,

arts and crafts area, as well as completely renovating our kitchen and dining facilities. We are all very excited about the additions, and there is no doubt that once completed, WhiteStone will be recognized as one of the best and most comprehensive retirement communities in the state. We as a fraternity can continue to be extremely proud of to support and live up to our high ideals and standards.

Three, an update on our beloved charity. Every day we help more than 62 fraternally related residents. That's about \$1.3 million worth of financial assistance each year. Your lodge contributions (which in 2011 totaled almost \$250,000) help provide room and board, medical expenses, doctor fees, anything that those fraternally related residents couldn't afford to pay for by themselves. We continue to need your help.

Sadly, the amount of charity we can continue to provide is declining because of the decline in annual donations. It costs our Masonic charity \$57 per day, \$1700 a month, and \$21,000 a year on average to provide just one resident with the financial assistance they need. In 2011 we had 35 lodges give enough to pay for at least one month's worth of charity for a single resident. Another 100 lodges gave enough for at least week. Disappointingly, more than 160 lodges

across this state gave nothing last year.

These charity patients are all distressed brother Master Masons, their widows, and family members who rely on your help to make ends meet. These people are so proud of where they live and are appreciative of what the fraternity provides. The disturbing reality is that there are so many more who could use our help, and whose needs are going unmet. So please consider returning to your lodge and discussing contributing enough to support one of these residents for at least a day, maybe a week, or preferably a month.

On behalf of our 250 residents, 180 staff members, and many more family and friends, we appreciate your continued support of WhiteStone over the past 99 years and encourage you stop by for lunch and a tour when in Greensboro, or make plans to attend our annual Family Day celebration on Saturday, May 12. As always, if you have any questions or need more information about the community, feel free to call me at (336) 547-2992 or email me at <mkolada@liveatwhitstone.org>.

Correction

In an earlier article, we misnumbered the lodge of new Grand Tyler Joseph L. Hester Jr. He is a member of Neill S. Stewart 556 in Erwin.

MILEPOSTS



WILSON — Late last year, a large contingent visited T. Bruce Boyette, right, to present him his Diamond Jubilee and thank him for his 60 years as a Mason. Members of Wilson 712 were joined by members of Boyette's various appendant bodies were on hand. Dean Hawley presented the certificate. The retired Wilson city manager was a Montfort Medalist and active in many facets of Masonry. He received many high honors in several Masonic bodies including serving as potentate of Sudan Shrine. Wilson 712's high school scholarship program which has helped send more than 30 students to college is named for him. Boyette passed away February 16. — Dean Hawley



ADVANCE — Norman Larry Carlton, left, recently received his Veteran's Emblem for 50 years Masonic membership. Acting master Ron Vogler is seen here presenting the award. — Ron Vogler



GRAHAM — Thomas M. Holt 492 recently presented the Veteran's Emblem for 50 years Masonic membership to Rockwell Alton Webster, right. He is seen receiving the certificate from Master Glenn Hogan. — Gene Hunter



GRAHAM — Carl Wade Clapp, left, of Thomas M. Holt 492 recently received his Diamond Jubilee honoring 60 years of Masonic membership. He is seen here receiving the award from John Isley. — Gene Hunter



ZEBULON — On December 18, William Thurston Debnam, left, was presented his Diamond Jubilee Award for 60 years Masonic membership. Andy Adams, then master of Zebulon 609, is seen here presenting the award. — Barna Wilder



SWANNANOVA — Marvin Robert Schwartz, center, was recently presented his Grand Lodge of Florida 60 year award. Members of Swannanoa 561 and the 39th Masonic District presented the award for the Florida Masons. — John Burchfield



SEA LEVEL — Members of Warsaw 677 made a road trip recently to present Jerry Nelson's Veteran's Emblem for 50 years Masonic membership. They were near their old friend and 48-year treasurer Jimmy Strickland, so they scooped Jerry up and carried him over to visit Jimmy. Seen here are, front from left, 677 Master Johnny McGee and Jimmy Strickland. Standing: Jerry Nelson, Raymond Turner, and Sterling Gillikin. — Luther Jones



DENVER — In late 2010, we had an article and picture of the seven members of the Sawyer family who had joined Denver 757. They thought they might hold the record for members of the same family. Last summer, more members of the family became Masons. The grand total now stands at ten. Carrol Sawyer Sr. says there are no more. — Kenneth Carnley



HENDERSON — John H. Mills 624 recently presented Diamond Jubilees to two members honoring their 60 years Masonic membership. Waylon Bowen, left, and Carlton Eaves, right, were the honorees. Randy Kearney, center, made the presentations. — Bill Riggan



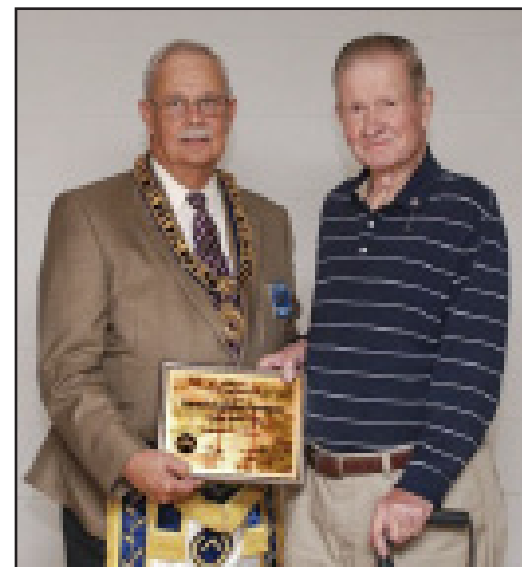
ADVANCE — Charles Travis "Scrip" Robertson, seated, was recently honored for his 60 years as a Mason. He is seen here receiving his Diamond Jubilee from Ron Vogler and Past Grand Master Lester Martin. — Mark Howell



GRAHAM — Thomas M. Holt 492's John Franklin Fricks Jr., left, recently received his Veteran's Emblem for 50 years lodge membership. The award is presented here by John Isley. — Gene Hunter



EPSOM — Ronald Renn, right, of John H. Mills 624, recently received his Veteran's Emblem for 50 years Masonic membership. Randy Kearney made the presentation. — Bill Riggan



NORWOOD — A few weeks ago, then Grand Master elect Robert Gresham presented Luther Laton, right, his Diamond Jubilee honoring his 60 years as a Mason. Laton, a member of Pee Dee 150, was raised at the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford. — Joel Allen



State geologist a Raleigh Mason

By Ric Carter

RALEIGH — Jim Simons is the 12th man to serve as North Carolina's state geologist. That's really striking when you visit the 1833 NC State Capitol building and see the impressive room on the third floor that was the state geologist's office when that historic landmark opened.

Simons is in his 39th year of state service. The last ten, he has been state geologist. Simons had decided to retire. Then along came the rising public debate about oil shale here in North Carolina.

As the question of mining for shale gas will be one of great import and Simons is perhaps the state's leading expert on the question of drilling and protection of our environment in the process, he is reconsidering his retirement.

The day I met Simons to take his picture at the first state geologist's office, the Capitol's historian asked us to help replace a piece of furniture moved the week before by a film crew. Two Masons would, of course, come to the aid of a lady in need. We were duly rewarded by moving a chair that belonged to Elisha Mitchell, for whom the highest mountain east of South Dakota, Mount Mitchell, was named. It has long been said that Masons bore Mitchell's body to his grave on the peak of Mount Mitchell after he fell to his death there. Mitchell was state geologist 1825-1827. But, no evidence has ever been found that he was a Mason.

As we moved around the office trying photo locations, we talk- see SIMONS, page 4

State Geologist Jim Simons visits the 1800s headquarters where his predecessors worked.

Landscape weekend

OXFORD — Recently, inspired by the actions of Girl Scout Katherine Starnes, the Masonic Home for Children held its first one-day landscaping volunteer event to help prepare the grounds of the Home for spring. For the last two years, while working toward her Gold Star Award in scouting, Miss Starnes and her troop mates and family came to the Home to prepare flower beds, spread mulch, weed, plant, and provide beautiful additions to the campus for spring. She is the granddaughter of Eureka 283 member Don Lylery.

On March 10, Miss Starnes returned, with her award. She was joined by Masons from local lodges, as well as employees of Direct Insurance and the Oxford Pack 637 Cub Scouts.

Masons from Orphans 761, James B. Green 735, Creedmoor 499, William T. Bain 231, and Selma 320 helped. They worked from early on the chilly morning until about 1:00 P.M. beautifying the cottages of lower campus, as well as the playground and play areas, with mulching and weeding.



Bahama emergency workers attended the dinner at Knap of Reeds 158.

Lodge honors emergency workers

BAHAMA — If you drove by Knap of Reeds 158 February 20, the three fire trucks and two emergency vehicles in front of the building might have made you think disaster. But, in fact, the view you would have caught was merely the dinner guests. Knapp of Reeds Lodge and Bahama Eastern Star were honoring the Bahama Volunteer Firefighters and Emergency Medical Service.

According to OES's Linda Albers, "We see helping those in distress and service to the community as purposes shared by the volunteer emergency service and the Masonic Family." More than 40 volunteers, their families, friends, and members of Knap of Reeds 158 and Bahama Chapter 203 enjoyed a dinner of spicy chicken. The banquet is an annual affair.

— Linda Albers

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New program helps sustain historic property



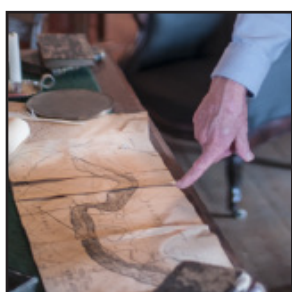
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Tractor attract Masonic families



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News from around the Masonic world



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Millbrook Mason is state geologist

On the cover

Wake Forest 252's Daryl Cash does a burn out in his jet tractor as he prepares for a pull at last year's NC State Fair.

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